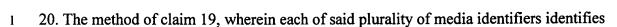
What is claimed is:

- 1. A message for communication among network elements, the message comprising:
- at least one media identifier including a first section and a second section; wherein the
- first section identifies one of a stored media file retrieved by a network element and
- an action item performed by the network element, and the second section identifies a
- 5 media file type of the stored media file when the first section identifies the stored
- 6 media file.
- 2. The message of claim 2, wherein the stored media file includes one of an
- announcement and a non-announcement type media file, the non-announcement type
- media file including media other than announcements and the announcement type
- 4 media file including an announcement.
- 1 3. The message of claim 2, wherein the second section includes a first group of bits
- 2 identifying whether an announcement or non-announcement type media file is
- identified by the at least one media identifier.
- 4. The message of claim 3, wherein the second section includes a second group of bits,
- and when an announcement type media file is identified by the first group of bits, the
- second group of bits identifies whether an announcement in the identified
- announcement type media file is interruptible or uninterruptible.
- 5. The message of claim 4, wherein the second group of bits identifies whether an
- 2 interruptible announcement is interruptible with one of DTMF, speech and both
- 3 DTMF and speech.
- 1 6. The message of claim 3, wherein when an announcement type media file is identified
- by the first group of bits, the first group of bits also identifying whether the
- announcement is a menu item.

- 7. The message of claim 6, wherein the second section includes a third group of bits,
- and when an announcement type media file is identified by the first group of bits, the
- third group of bits identifying a menu offset used to determine the next announcement
- 4 to play to a caller.
- 8. The message of claim 7, wherein the at least one media identifier includes a plurality
- of media identifiers, and the menu offset is used to identify one of the plurality of
- 3 media identifiers.
- 9. The message of claim 6, wherein the second section includes a third group of bits,
- and when a non-announcement type media file is identified by the first group of bits,
- the third group of bits identifies one of a media file format and an action item code.
- 1 10. The message of claim 1, wherein the media file includes one of video, fax, music,
- 2 data and an announcement.
- 1 11. The message of claim 1, wherein the plurality of network elements include network
- 2 elements in a telecommunications network.
- 1 12. The message of claim 11, wherein the telecommunications network includes an
- 2 intelligent network, and the plurality of network elements include an intelligent
- 3 peripheral and a service control point.
- 1 13. A system available to provide a multimedia service, comprising:
- a first network element transmitting a message, the message including at least one
- media identifier identifying a media file and including a first section and a second
- section; wherein the first section identifies one of a stored media file and an action
- 5 item, and the second section identifies a media file type of the stored media file when
- 6 the first section identifies the stored media file; and
- a second network element receiving the message and connectable to a database
- storing the media file.

- 1 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the first and second network elements are included
- 2 in an intelligent network providing multimedia services.
- 1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the message identifies one of an announcement,
- video, music, fax and data.
- 1 16. A message for communicating a plurality of menu items to a network element, the
- 2 message comprising:
- a plurality of media identifiers, each media identifier identifying a menu item; and
- at least one of the plurality of media identifiers including a menu offset used to
- identify another one of the plurality of media identifiers in response to a user input.
- 1 17. The message of claim 16, wherein each menu item includes one of an announcement
- 2 and an action item.
- 1 18. The message of claim 16, wherein each media identifier includes a first section and a
- second section; wherein the first section identifies one of a stored media file retrieved
- by a network element and an action item performed by the network element, and the
- second section identifies a media file type of the stored media file when the first
- section identifies the stored media file.
- 1 19. A method of processing a message for communicating between network elements, the
- 2 message having a format including a plurality of media identifiers, each media
- identifier identifying one of a media file and an action item, the method comprising
- 4 steps of:
- 5 receiving the message and storing the message in memory;
- decoding a first media identifier of said plurality of media identifiers, the first media
- 7 identifier including a menu offset;
- 8 receiving a user input; and
- 9 selecting a second media identifier of said plurality of media identifiers to decode
- based upon the user input and the menu offset.



- 2 a menu item for a menu.
- 1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the first media identifier identifies an
- 2 announcement prompting the user to select one of a plurality of the menu items and
- further comprising a step of playing the announcement to the user after decoding the
- 4 first media identifier.